

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** [Scott Hommel](#); [James Cason](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#)  
**Subject:** Cabinet Affairs Report for today  
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## DOI UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 2/15/17

Doug Domenech

### **Status of the Nominee**

Rep. Zinke waiting Senate floor vote. We anticipate (hopeful) he may be confirmed Thursday or Friday.

### **Zinke Schedule for first week.**

Friday, 2/17 Day One in the building. Various employee meetings, Ethics Briefing, Travel Briefing. Meeting with Sportsmans Groups listed below (invited):

Jeff Crane (Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation)

Chris Cox (National Rifle Association)

Larry Keane (National Sports Shooting Foundation)

Margaret Everson (Ducks Unlimited)

David Anderson (Boone &Crockett Club)

Mitch Butler (Mule Deer Foundation)

Greg Schildwachter (Wild Sheep Foundation)

Whit Fosberg (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership)

Mike Nussman (American Sportfishing Association)

Glenn Le Munyon (Dallas Safari Club)

Gary Taylor (National Wild Turkey Foundation)

Jay Mac Aninch (Archery Trade Association)

Ron Reagan (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies)

Collin O'Mara (National Wildlife Foundation)

Anna Seidman (Safari Club International)

Steve Williams (Wildlife Management Institute)

**Key Announcements/Secretarial Orders:**

- Overturning the FWS Director's decision to ban lead ammo
- Renew charter for Wildlife Hunting Heritage Conservation Council
- Expand opportunities for outdoor recreation on public lands
- Issue Employee Letter on Ethical Standards

Saturday, 2/18 Day Two in the building.

- Briefing on budget
- Briefing on law enforcement and emergency management.
- Briefing on the status of hiring/appointments.

**Secretarial Travel**

Subject to change, Secretary Zinke will travel as follows:

Interior Secretary designee Ryan Zinke proposes travel to Utah, Alaska and California during the first ten days at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

During the 2016 campaign, then-candidate Donald J. Trump put a new focus on states and local communities. His message to return power to the people and "drain the swamp" resonated with millions of Americans in the Heartland and across the country, who felt as though Washington had left them behind. In an effort to capitalize on that wave of support, honor commitments made in his Senate confirmation hearing and fulfill the President's campaign commitments, Secretary designee Zinke proposes travel to Utah, Alaska, and California where he will participate in round-table meetings, listening sessions, site tours, and deliver remarks about America First policies and ideology. The trip will provide the Trump Administration the ability to drive a positive message of prioritizing issues important to Western states.

The goals of the trip include:

- Fulfill commitments made during the Senate confirmation hearing (and in individual

Senate meetings) to travel to key states and address priority issues

- Initiate action on policies that align with President Trump's America First priorities (energy development, state input on monument designations, keeping public lands public)
- Establish strong working relationships with local, state, Tribal and Congressional members, who will be key in helping ensure the success of the Administration
- Garner positive regional media about the Trump Administration's actions

Below is a summary of the schedule with news-making items highlighted.

#### **SUMMARY OF TRAVEL SCHEDULE (NOTE CABINET AFFAIRS HAS ASKED US TO PAUSE PLANNING FOR THE TRIP)**

February 20-21: Utah with the Congressional delegation and governor. Zinke will visit Bears Ears national monument and hold a meeting with Navajo, Governor and Congressional delegation regarding the controversial monument designation at the visitor center in southeast Utah. In Salt Lake City, he will attend a reception with the Governor and state legislators. The goal of this visit is to listen to local officials and provide input to POTUS on what measures should be taken regarding the monument. Zinke noted in his confirmation hearing that Utah would be his first trip. Press will be invited to Bears Ears to get B-roll and statement after the meeting however the meeting will be closed to press. Fly to Alaska.

February 21-24: Travel to Juneau, Alaska w/ Senator Murkowski. Zinke proposes to accept an invitation from Sen. Murkowski to meet with the Legislature in Juneau. Zinke will also meet with Governor Walker, Tribal representatives at Alaska Native Corporations, Senator Sullivan, and business leaders. Zinke will also go to a DOI facility where he will meet with about 200 DOI employees in Anchorage. Local press will be done with the Governor and the Senators.

#### **Planned Secretarial Actions:**

- Zinke will sign an order reestablishing the Office of the Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs.
- Memo directing FWS to review issues related to building a road to serve the people of King Cove.
- Possible action on National Petroleum Reserve Alaska to overturn the last administration's decision to remove 11,000 acres from the NPRA. (BIG NEWS)

February 24-26: Fly to California on Friday. On Saturday, Secretary Zinke will go on a morning run with Park Police located in San Francisco, then meet with them to talk about their mission, challenges, and opportunities. Zinke will also meet with Golden Gate National Recreation Area director and tour the Presidio National Park which until 1994 was a U.S. Army post.

That evening, Secretary Zinke will deliver dinner keynote remarks at the Steamboat Institute's summit in Aptos, California. He will speak broadly about unleashing American First Energy and economic opportunities without breaking new policy. Focus on restoring trust and integrity to the federal government. The event is open to credentialed media. Will receive a list of reporters ahead of time. No interviews granted. Fly back to DC.

## **Energy Executive Orders**

### **Stream Protection Rule (At the White House)**

Let us know if you want anyone from the Department to attend.

### **BLM Venting and Flaring Methane Rule (Passed the House)**

### **BLM Planning 2.0 Rule (Passed the House)**

## **White House Communications Report**

### **DAILY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

#### **Inquiries**

· **Washington Post** (Darryl Fears) & **WSJ** (Kris Maher): Requesting a statement on the Natural Resources Defense Council lawsuit against the Trump administration for delaying the listing of the rusty patch bumblebee. – Response: "The Department is working to review this regulation as expeditiously as possible and expects to issue further guidance on the effective date of the listing shortly." Heather Swift, Interior spokesman.

"FWS today published in the Federal Register a notice of delay in the effective date of the final listing determination for the rusty patched bumble bee as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The change in the effective date from February 10 to March 21, 2017, is not expected to have an impact on the conservation of the species. FWS is developing a recovery plan to guide efforts to bring this species back to a healthy and secure condition." Gary Frazer, Assistant Director -- Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- **Outside Magazine:** Requesting information about the hiring freeze and seasonal firefighters. – Response: Directed them to the 1/31 OMB memo clarifying exemptions for seasonal firefighters and noting DOI requested the waivers last week.
- **Arizona Republic** (Brenna Goth) Requesting information on whether DOI was still considering keeping a community garden on a piece of land it is set to acquire due to a litigation matter in Phoenix.
- **Bloomberg** (Jennifer A. Dlouhy) Request: “President Trump signed into law a CRA resolution of disapproval repealing the SEC rule governing foreign payment disclosure for resource extraction. Because of the DOI's involvement in the EITI, can you weigh in on how this might change the approach to the transparency initiative? And, can I get a copy of the DOI letter supporting the resolution of disapproval?”

#### Top Stories

- Roll Call: NRA Urges Zinke Confirmation
- Outdoor Recreation Groups support Zinke Confirmation
- Zinke confirmation likely not until March
- Group sues feds for delaying bumblebee's endangered listing
- Wyden presses Interior Department over firefighting hiring concerns

#### Top Issues and Accomplishments

- FYI – This week, the National Parks Service is sending 22 law enforcement officers to fulfill the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s January request for BIA law enforcement assistance. BIA is unable to fulfill the full request for support so NPS and the BLM are detailing officers.
  - Tomorrow, Rep. Zinke will be featured in part 2 of a History Channel documentary about the U.S. Navy SEAL teams
  - Working with our policy shop to establish secretary’s early priorities and messaging
  - Writing Day 1 content for various web platforms and finalizing Secretary’s events
  - Continuing to outline Days 1-100 and 1-year plan for Secretary
- Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor

US Department of the Interior